

for *any office* in the gift of the people, unless he be an *American born citizen*, nor if he be a *Roman Catholic!* See, too, the next clause of that oath by which the member surrenders his own freedom of action, and binds himself, *in all political matters*, so far as the order is concerned, (and none knows how far that may be,) to comply with the *will of the majority*, though it may *conflict* with his *personal preference*, so long as it does not conflict with the constitution of the United States of America, or that of the State in which he lives! See further the oath of the second degree, where the pledge of obedience given is "*to conform in all things*, to all the rules and regulations of the order and the constitution and by-laws of the council so long as they do not conflict," &c., &c. And further on in the same, the oath reads, "*that you* (the member) *will support in all political matters, for all political offices, members of this order in preference to other persons*, and that it may be done legally, (strange legality!) you will when *elected or appointed to any official station*, conferring on you the power to do so, *remove all foreigners, aliens or Roman Catholics from office or place in your gift!*" Then comes the solemn obligation and oath, that the member is to **KEEP THROUGH LIFE**, sacred and inviolable, this and *all other obligations* which he has previously taken in the order, and to crown the whole, (through which there seems to peep a most material secret,) comes the clause in the *third degree* oath, that he, (the member,) taking that degree, "*will vote for and support for all political offices third or union degree members of this order* **IN PREFERENCE TO ALL OTHERS;**" followed near the close by a renewal of the pledge to keep sacred and inviolate all other obligations which have been previously taken! If these do not tend "*to the subversion of the well established and deeply cherished principles of our government,*" it will be difficult to imagine or conceive of principles and purposes which would have that tendency. Not only so, for though there are loud sounding passages often repeated in those forms of oaths, professing devotion to the constitution both of the United States, and of the State, it is nevertheless apparent to every one who remembers or will read those constitutions, that the principles and purposes above quoted from the oaths and obligations, not only conflict with, but are directly contradictory to and subversive of, the letter and spirit of both. What says the constitution of the United States? In Art. 6th, Section 3d, is found this solemn and important injunction, "**NO RELIGIOUS TEST SHALL EVER BE REQUIRED AS A QUALIFICATION TO ANY OFFICE OF PUBLIC TRUST.**"

Not content with this, such was deemed to be the import-